## CIRCUIT COURT OF OZAUKEE COUNTY BRANCH 3 HONORABLE SANDY A. WILLIAMS

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## To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Michael Stoddard. I have known Michael for several years and became acquainted with him through my daughter's attendance at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School and her participation in the performing arts. I also served on DSHA's Parents Fine Arts Committee where I had the opportunity to work directly with Mr. Stoddard. It is from this parental perspective that I write these comments.

One important characteristic of an individual working with teenage performers is to have solid organizational skills. Mr. Stoddard excels in his organizational skills. He does not shy away from taking on incredibly difficult and complicated theater projects. I have personally witnessed Mr. Stoddard taking on one such project which, through his guidance, he lead the high school performers' beyond their maturity level. His efforts and direction were recognized when DSHA was nominated and received several Tommy Awards. (The Tommy Awards program is an education initiative from Madison's Overture Center for the Arts dedicated to engaging the community in the arts. The Tommy Awards program encourages and recognizes student excellence in musical theater productions.)

Mr. Stoddard's unique personality and powerful creativity promotes a sense of self worth, responsibility and strength of character to those he teaches and directs. He is able to foster, recognize and develop talent, interest, assets and aspiration with whomever he comes in contact.

Many of the skills required to succeed in today's work force are the same skills learned from participating in the arts, such as problem solving, self motivation, discipline and teamwork. As a parent, I have an expectation that teachers in contact with children should be able to assist in this development. With Mr. Stoddard, he not only assists, but nurtures this development, and along the way, he instills happiness in his students. His energy, dedication and humor cannot be beat. He is an exceptional educator and an inspiration to those he directs.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sandy A. Williams

Sandy a Williams